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Message Text

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63
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

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FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 FEA-02 SCI-06 AGR-20 INT-08 HEW-08 CG-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2989
INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS CARACAS 2134

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV PFOR
SUBJECT: INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ
FOLLIWING HIS SWEARING-IN AS PRESIDENT AT 11:00 A.M. MARCH 12, 1974, CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ MADE AN 80-MINUTE INAUGURAL ADDRESS (TEXT BEING POUCHED) WHOSE MAIN POINTS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. PRESIDENT PEREZ PRAISED THE "NEW DIALOGUE OFFERED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA," AS EVIDENCED BY ITS RECENT PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS.

B. VENEZUELA WANTS FRUITFUL RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR POLITICAL, SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC SYSTEM MAY BE. VENEZUELA DOES NOT WANT TO BE A DEPENDENT OR SUBJECT NATION BUT FULLY AND PROUDLY SOVEREIGN. VENEZUELA'S INTERESTS WILL SELDOM COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES, BUT IT WILL BE IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH TO SEEK AN AGREEMENT AND UNDERSTANDING. "IF
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VENEZUELA CANNOT MAKE FRIENDS WITH EVERYONE, IT DOES NOT WISH TO HAVE

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ENEMIES. SUCH WILL BE THE IRREVOCABLE CONDUCT OF MY GOVERNMENT IN INTERNATIONAL POLICY." BOUNDARY DISPUTES WILL BE DEALT WITH THROUGH "FRIENDLY AND DIRECT DIALOGUE."

C. 1. REVERSION TO THE STATE OF VENEZUELA'S PETROLEUM RESOURCES SHOULD BE SPEEDED UP. CONGRESS WILL HAVE THE LAST WORD, BUT ACTING IN THE NAME OF, AND BY DECISION OF ALL VENEZUELA. "THE SOFTER THE TONE OF OUR VOICE THE EASIER IT WILL BE TO BE HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD." PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID HE WILL NAME A BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE COMMISSION TO ADVISE THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING ALTERNATIVES TO BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS. A NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY IS NEEDED TO DETERMINE THE BEST USE OF VENEZUELA'S ENERGY RESOURCES AND THE NATIONAL CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE ORINOCO PETROLIFEROUS BELT. PRESIDENT PEREZ EXPRESSED CONCERN AS TO THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON THE VENEZUELAN ECONOMY AS WELL AS CONCERN OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF VENEZUELA'S GREATLY INCREASED PETROLEUM REVENUES.

C. 2. VENEZUELA SHOULD SELL LESS PETROLEUM AND MORE FINISHED PRODUCTS USING PETROLEUM AND EXPORT LESS IRON AND MORE STEEL PRODUCTS .

C. 3. (THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON ENERGY ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.)

D. PRESIDENT PEREZ STATED THAT VENEZUELA WILL ESTABLISH IN THE IDB OUT OF ITS EXCESS PETROLEUM REVENUES A FIDUCIARY FUND "WITHOUT HUMILIATING VETOES, WITH THE SOLE CONDITION THAT IT BE USED FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR WHICH THERE IS PRESENTLY NO INSTITUTIONAL FINANCING DUE TO BEING WITHIN THE SPHERE OF INTEREST OF MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES WHICH WITH THEIR INFLUENCE SUCCEED IN PARALYZING LINES OF CREDIT TO LATIN AMERICA." PEREZ SAID VENEZUELA WOULD CONSULT WITH OTHER LA COUNTRIES ABOUT HOLDING A CONFERENCE ON RAW MATERIALS. HE SPOKE OF THE "ECONOMIC TOTALITARIANISM" OF THE DEVELOPED CONTRIES.

E. PRESIDENT PEREZ EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE ECOLOGY, PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF VENEZUELA'S MARITIME RE-SOURCES.

F. PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID HIS WOULD BE A "GOVERNMENT OF CONSENSUS
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AND BREADTH." "THERE WILL BE NO OLD QUARREL TO SEPARATE ME FROM THE REST OF THE VENEZUELANS." HE PAID GRACEFUL TRIBUTE TO HIS PREDECESSOR RAFAEL CALDERA AND PLEDGED TO CONTINUE THE LATTER'S PROJECTS.

G. AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY WILL BE STIMULATED.

H. SWEEPING ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM OF THE GOV WILL BE UNDERTAKEN,

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ESPECIALLY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM.

I. "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD" WAS MENTIONED AS AN OBLIGATION OF THE GOV.

J. GREAT ATTENTION WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE POOR AND UNDERPRIVILEGED.

K. THE NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM WILL BE IMPROVED.

L. THE GOV WILL RESPECT INTELLECTUALS, WHATEVER THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATION.

M. "WE GUARANTEE PERSONAL SAFETY AND THE RIGHT OF PROPERTY."

N. TRADE UNIONISM SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED.

O. THE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION WILL FIGHT CORRUPTION IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN "A HIGH LEVEL OF PURITY AND DECORUM."
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